

FROM RECREATION LEADER TO DIRECTOR Ken Price, Recreation Director

Here's a story about one of our Recreation staff – we hope that you will find inspiration in it!



If there was a phrase to characterize the time Ken Price, Recreation Director for the City of Carlsbad, has spent in the Recreation field, it might be this quote from Henry David Thoreau: *“Be true to your work, your word, and your friend.”* For nearly 30 years, Ken Price has built a legacy of service to the people, and the profession of, parks and recreation. Ken has dedicated his career – not to mention his heart and soul – toward *“Creating Community Through People, Parks and Programs.”*

If there is a job to be done in Recreation, Ken has probably had first-hand experience doing it. Since starting his career in Carlsbad as a Recreation Leader for Youth Sports in 1978, Ken has managed to work in nearly every position in Recreation – he has “been there” and understands his staff’s perspectives. He used this experience to earn his way to the directorship of Carlsbad Recreation Department, which he assumed in 1999. Ken’s experience reaches well beyond the parameters of traditional Recreation programming, activities and facilities management. He has challenged his staff, and himself, to think outside of the box to bring forward new solutions to community concerns that reinforce the mission of parks and recreation.

Here are just a few of the achievements our department has seen under Ken’s leadership:

- Developing a strategic plan of our department – well before it became common practice in the field
- Growing Carlsbad’s Enrichment Classes and Camps programs to be among the largest and most diverse in the area
- Implementing online registration for classes and activities at a time when the technology was still relatively new
- Ensuring children of all backgrounds and abilities have a place in Recreation by instituting the Opportunity

Grants program for low-income families, and the Inclusion program for participants with special needs

- Bringing the community together through the growth of special events such as the Carlsbad Triathlon – the longest running municipal event of its kind in the West – that have become treasured traditions for thousands of families over the years
- The fastest growth of park development in the City’s history, with a record three park grand openings held in 2006, and last summer’s grand opening of the City’s new municipal golf course, The Crossings at Carlsbad
- Opening the City’s first dog park, skate park and Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park – now a popular regional destination, and one of the City’s most unique facilities
- Developing a master plan for the Citywide Trail System resulting in more than 26 miles of scenic trails and counting
- Creating the T.R.U.S.T. (Teaching Respect, Unity, and Sportsmanship through Teamwork) program, which has won numerous awards from CPRS as well as the prestigious Helen Putnam Award of Excellence from the League of California Cities
- Transforming the Community Services Guide into a primary resource for citizens, and one of the most admired publications in the county
- Creating a Graphics department for Recreation, and a full-time Community Coordinator position to improve the quality of marketing and communications of Recreation programs

Though Ken’s list of achievements is lengthy, if asked what his greatest accomplishment has been in his career – he would probably say it has been the people. The people he has guided through careers in Recreation. The people he has helped to make significant contributions to the community. The people whose kids took part in the numerous programs he either managed or ran himself. The people he works alongside every day to make the community a better place.

From the entire Recreation Department – *we all sincerely thank Ken for his mentorship, compassion and friendship through the years.* He is the true embodiment of what it means to serve in Recreation with passion and conviction, and hopes to pass along that passion to each of you.

ROUND-UP REPORT

Adult Sports

Recreation activities make healthy employees, which translates to healthy businesses. Companies such as Calloway Golf, Viasat, Legoland, Invitrogen, Upper Deck, Four Seasons and many other businesses use our sports leagues for employee team building and to promote healthy activities. Registrations for the spring seasons were strong, with 105 softball teams, 33 basketball teams and 24 soccer teams. 90% of all Adult Sports teams are returning teams. Fall leagues will begin registration in June. Call (760) 602-2973 for more information or visit www.carlsbadsports.org.



Aquatics

The pool is more than just splashy, summer fun – it's a place for get fit and learn skills. The Masters Swim Program is a supervised, structured workout for swimmers of all abilities interested in cross-training, conditioning or increasing overall fitness. Swim lessons for all ages teach skills to help you, your kids and their caregivers prepare to avoid a pool-related accident. Register online at www.carlsbadconnect.org. Subscribe to the Swim Complex schedule online by clicking on Subscription Service at www.carlsbadca.gov.



Enrichment

Variety is the theme for this Summer camp season, when campers can choose from new camps such as "Project Runway," "Spirit Cheerleading," "Fliptime Supertots Gymnastics," and six new cooking camps in our new kitchen at the Harding Community Center. Information on Summer Day Camps will be available March 19 in the School News – a publication that reaches 20,000 parents, students and businesses in Carlsbad. A special pull-out section on Summer Camps will be sent home directly to all students attending Carlsbad Unified School District, and an additional 5,000 copies will also be distributed to other select schools, at Community Centers and Libraries. For more information, contact Lori Swenck at 602-4649.



Leo Carrillo Ranch

The popular Friday Night Film Festival returns to the Ranch, running August 15-September 12. Enjoy nostalgic entertainment under the stars with a new film featuring Leo Carrillo each Friday. Also returning is the Dinner and a Movie event on Friday, September 19. A full Italian dinner and screening of the film "Love Me Forever" (1935) are included in the \$22 ticket. Order online at www.carlsbadconnect.org or call 476-1042 for tickets.

Teens

A big year for teens was launched this year with the ever-popular Teen Scene event on January 26, featuring the Battle of the Bands. A Friday night event series, "Totally Teens Nights" began in February and included open mic, dances, karaoke and other fun, safe activities for teens to socialize. Recreation staff has also launched its Teens in Action on-campus program, which provides healthy lunchtime activities at local middle schools. For more information call Michael Bodman at 602-7527.



Seniors

The Senior Center celebrated the grand opening of its new expansion on March 5. Nearly 300 attended the ribbon cutting and enjoyed a special luncheon. The day closed with an Open House for the community. The new expansion area complements existing services, and includes a fitness room, computer lab, activity room, art room, game room, private consultation areas and informal lunch room. Subscribe to the Senior Center news online by clicking on Subscription Service at www.carlsbadca.gov.

Youth Sports

Players are being introduced at a very early age to concepts of fair play and fitness through the success of the Pee Wee Indoor Soccer for ages 4-6, and Pee Wee Basketball for grades 1-2. These programs not only teach the skills of the sport, but foster good sportsmanship and healthy habits guaranteed to last a lifetime. For more information or to volunteer visit www.carlsbadsports.org or call 434-2971.



PARK DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Alga Norte Community Park

At its Feb. 26, 2008 meeting, the City Council discussed how to best move forward with the project, given growing concerns about the economy. After reviewing the options and listening to comments from the community, the City Council approved a redesign of the aquatic center that would include a competition pool, an instructional pool and a therapy pool, and a play area for children, but eliminate the “moving river,” pool slides and wet-play structure. The redesign should be completed in early 2009, at which time the City will solicit bids for building the park and aquatic center.

Alga Norte Community Park is a 33-acre park located in the Southeast Quadrant, bordered by Palomar Airport Road, El Camino Real, and the La Costa Golf Course. The approved Master Plan includes baseball fields, a dog park, a skate park, 3 tot lots, 4 basketball half courts, picnic areas, a trail system, and an aquatics complex.



Calavera Hills and Stagecoach Park Picnic Shelters

Construction will be getting underway in March for two new park picnic facilities. At Stagecoach Park the sand volleyball court will be replaced with a wood trellis picnic structure, similar to those already existing at the park. The new picnic area will accommodate 6 new picnic tables, along with new grills, litter containers and adjacent landscaping.

The picnic shelter at Calavera Hills will provide a canvas shade structure that will accommodate 4 new picnic tables near the newly renovated tot lot.

It is anticipated that the construction for these new picnic shelters at both parks will be completed by early summer, just in time for Jazz in the Park.



Leo Carrillo Ranch Barn Stabilization

Construction plans for the Leo Carrillo Ranch Barn Stabilization project have been completed and staff will be going to City Council in March to seek authorization to bid the project. The work in this phase of the barn restoration includes, wall footings, structural bracing for the walls, concrete flooring, roofing and restoration of the cupola. It is anticipated that construction could begin as soon as late summer, if a responsive bid is received.

Poinsettia Park Tennis Courts

Seven additional courts are being designed to add to the existing three courts at Poinsettia Park. Construction will begin at the start of '08 and completion is estimated in summer '08. A future phase will construct a “center” court, practice backstop, and tennis clubhouse.

Trail Development

In 2008 much of the trails in the Robertson Ranch area will begin construction. The newest trails to be built as part of this private development in the coming year will be along College Avenue and Cannon Road as part of the roadway improvements. This will tie the trail along this major roadway into the existing trail in the Calavera Hills Phase II Development. Additional trail construction will also get underway in Robertson Ranch in the open space area that connects the East and West Villages of the development, as well as a trail connection to the future City park.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

Teen Scene – January 26



Totally Teen Nights – February 22



Senior Center Grand Opening – March 5



Spring Datebook

March 19

Summer Camps information available

March 22

EGGstravaganza Spring Festival at Poinsettia Community Park

March 27

Quarterly Trail Volunteer Meeting at Senior Center

March 28

Totally Teen Nights Spring Fling Dance at Calavera Hills

April 3

Senior Commission Meeting

April 7 – 11

Kidz Camp at Pine Avenue Park

Pee Wee Camp at Holiday Park

Coast 2 Coast Summer Camp at Aviara Park Soccer Field

April 9

Summer Camps registration open to Carlsbad residents

April 16

Summer Camps registration open to non-residents

April 21

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

April 25

Totally Teen Nights Carlsbad Idol at Stagecoach

April 19

Carlsbad Loves Kids at Calavera Hills

April 28

Summer Community Services Guide Available

May 1

Senior Commission Meeting

May 4

Carlsbad Village Faire

May 11

Mother's Day

May 14

Class registration open to Carlsbad residents

May 19

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

May 21

Class registration open to non-residents

May 26

Holiday Memorial Day – City offices closed

May 30

Totally Teen Nights Splash Bash at Monroe Swim Complex

June 5

Senior Commission Meeting

June 7

Trail Blast: Emergency Preparedness at Lake Calavera

June 15

Father's Day

June 16

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting